

# Bemidji Area OEHE Network:



Vol. 12, number THREE

MAR. 2002

## ELECTRONIC WASTE

There are no federal standards for disposal of electronic equipment. The state of California and does have requirements, Minnesota has guidance, which may be obtained at the following websites:

[www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/pubs/4\\_15.pdf](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/pubs/4_15.pdf)

[www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegulationsPolicies/CRTs](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegulationsPolicies/CRTs)

The Minnesota site lists the following options for dealing with outdated equipment:

1. Materials exchange
2. Reconditioning/Refurbishing/Resale
3. Recycling
4. Dealer/Manufacturer Take-back

Generators of waste are reminded to be aware of the final disposition of devices as it affects their cradle-to-grave responsibilities for the waste.

## PATIENT SAFETY ALERT

The Veterans Administration has published a warning concerning the Zoll M Series defibrillators and M Series Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) with software versions below 30.00. In the auto-charge mode, the charging circuit may generate an artifact on the electrocardiograph signal that can lead the units to display "No Shock Advised" even during a shockable ventricular fibrillation. Biomedical engineering staff should be asked to determine if a unit is affected by this warning. If so, then the Zoll representative should be called to obtain corrective software. Zoll Medical may be contacted at 888-234-3626 from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM

## HOT WATER

Tap water may scald an individual if exposure times are long enough. The following temperatures and

exposure times are found in the Consumer Product Safety Commission pamphlet #5098.

150 degrees Fahrenheit - 2 seconds

140 degrees Fahrenheit - 6 seconds

130 degrees Fahrenheit - 30 seconds

120 degrees Fahrenheit - 5 minutes

These temperatures and times result in 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns.

## PERSONNEL

CAPT Bruce Etchison has been selected for a position with the U.S. Coast Guard in Alameda, CA. He will serve as the Chief, Safety, Environmental Health and Food Service for the Maintenance and Logistics Command – Pacific. The Coast Guard has facilities from Kodiak, AK down the coast (obviously) to San Diego and west to Hawaii and Guam. CAPT Etchison and his staff will be responsible for the safety of CG staff at shore post and onboard CG cutters (ships) that patrol our nations pacific harbors and coasts. He reports to the USCG the week of June 10.

## LEVEL I COURSES

Just a reminder that the Bemidji and Aberdeen Areas will be joining forces to present a Level I injury prevention course. The course is set for April 23-26, 2002 in Fargo, N.D. Interested persons should contact Diana Kuklinski at 218-444-0503. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Wingate at rates of \$55 for singles and \$65 for doubles. Participants may call the Wingate at 701-281-9133 to book their own rooms by March 29, 2002. Another course will be conducted May 7-10 in Olanah, Wisconsin for those that cannot make it to Fargo. Contact Diana for information on this course, as well.

## ALEX HARDIN

The Bemidji Area lost a past employee in LCDR Alex Hardin. Alex was the Service Unit Sanitarian for the White Earth, Upper Sioux and Lower Sioux

Reservations in the early 1990's. He suffered a heart attack at Phoenix Indian Medical Center on the morning of Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Alex was a hard-working and dedicated environmental health officer and will be greatly missed. The family has asked that donations be sent to:

Bethany Christian Services, 25 Reed St., Asheville, NC 28803 (or)

Samaritans Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C. 28607

### **OEHE WORKSHOP**

The OEHE workshop is scheduled for March 26-27<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree Mall of America. Those attending should call the hotel at 952-854-2244 as soon as possible to reserve a room. A Meet and Greet social is set up for Monday, March 25 at 5:30 PM in the hospitality room (309) at the hotel. Soda will be provided; however, staff attending are asked to bring snacks to share. The event will conclude by 8:30.

### **OSHA TRAINING**

Two day OSHA compliance courses are being offered in a number of Wisconsin and Minnesota communities in April. The program begins at 9AM and ends at 4PM daily and covers employer rights and responsibilities, common hazards, OSHA's training requirements, the latest standards, rulings, proposals and guidelines for keeping records. The workshop is \$395 and will be held on the following dates in these cities:

Fargo, ND	April 2&3
Bloomington	April 11&12
Wausau	April 16&17
Green Bay	April 18&19
Eau Claire	April 23&24
Duluth	April 25&26

You may register on-line at : [www.natsem.com](http://www.natsem.com)

### **COOLING FOODS**

Hot foods must be cooled down to safe temperatures quickly to prevent the multiplication of microorganisms. The danger zone that allows bacterial growth is 140 degrees F to 41 degrees F. But within this zone is a super danger zone of 120-70. The FDA requires foods to be cooled from 140 down to 70 within two hours and then to 41 or below in an additional 4 hours. Ice water baths, cold paddles and other methods are used on large quantities of hot foods to cool them. See your environmental health officer for more suggestions on cooling hot foods.

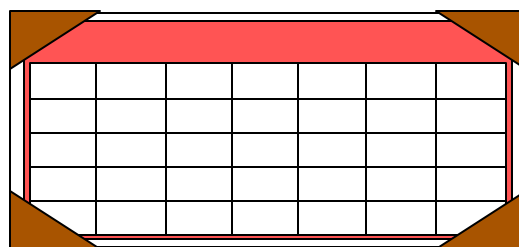
### **ARSENIC**

ATSDR has notified ToxFAQS recipients that the U.S. EPA has announced its arsenic drinking water standard will be 10 parts per billion. Previously the standard for arsenic in drinking water was 50 parts per billion. The new standard is more stringent in that it allows for less arsenic to be allowed in drinking water. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element found as black crystals or an amorphous metalloid. Arsenic is a known human carcinogen that produces liver tumors.

### **MERCURY THERMOMETERS**

A mercury thermometer exchange was conducted in Bemidji in January with over 900 thermometers turned in for exchange. The Indigenous Environmental Network is interested in assisting BAIHS healthcare facilities with additional collections. A source for non-mercury thermometers for exchange programs is still available: RG Medical Diagnostics in Southfield, MI. Call 888-596-9498 ext. 202 (JohnNelson) for information on **Geratherm** thermometers available for only **\$2.73 each**.

### **CALENDAR**



**Mar.- 26-27, OEHE Workshop, Bloomington, MN, DoubleTree Hotel**

**April\_ APIC-MN Basic Infection Control Course, various sites, \$365, contact Coni Waters at 651-452-8126**  
**April 8,9,10 Fergus Falls; 11,12,13 Duluth; 15,16,17 Minneapolis**